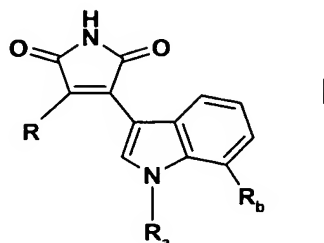


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original): A compound of formula I

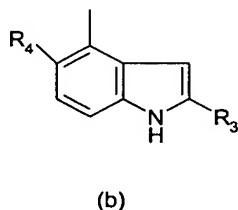
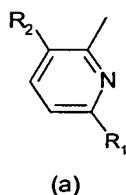


wherein

R_a is H; C₁₋₄alkyl; or C₁₋₄alkyl substituted by OH, NH₂, NHC₁₋₄alkyl or N(di-C₁₋₄alkyl)₂;

R_b is H; halogen; C₁₋₆alkyl; or C₁₋₆alkoxy, and

R is a radical of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

each of R₁ and R₃ is a heterocyclic residue; or a radical of formula α



wherein X is a direct bond, O, S or NR₁₁ wherein R₁₁ is H or C₁₋₄alkyl,

R_c is C₁₋₄alkylene or C₁₋₄alkylene wherein one CH₂ is replaced by CR_xR_y wherein one of R_x and R_y is H and the other is CH₃, each of R_x and R_y is CH₃ or R_x and R_y form together -CH₂-CH₂-,

Y is bound to the terminal carbon atom and is selected from OH, -NR₁₂R₁₃ wherein each of R₁₂ and R₁₃, independently, is H, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, aryl, aryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, heteroaryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl or C₁₋₄alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen, C₁₋₄alkoxy or -NR₁₄R₁₅ wherein each of R₁₄ and R₁₅, independently, is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₄alkyl, or R₁₂ and R₁₃ form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue; and

each of R₂ and R₄, independently, is H; halogen; C₁₋₄alkyl; C₁₋₄alkoxy; CF₃; nitrile; nitro or amino,

or a salt thereof.

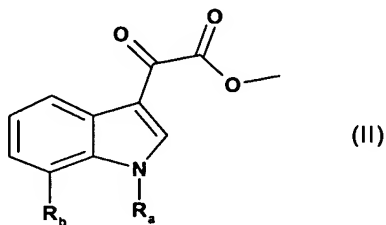
Claim 2. (Original): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_a is H, methyl, ethyl, or isopropyl, or a salt thereof.

Claim 3. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein R_b is H, Cl, methyl or ethyl, or a salt thereof.

Claim 4. (Currently amended): A compound ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein R_1 is a heterocyclic residue, e.g. a piperazinyl, optionally substituted on a ring nitrogen or on a ring carbon, e.g. 4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl, or 4,7-diaza-spiro[2.5]oct-7-yl; or a radical of formula (α) wherein X is a direct bond, R_c is CH_2 and Y is $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$ wherein each of R_{12} and R_{13} , independently, is H, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy or $-\text{NR}_{14}\text{R}_{15}$ wherein each of R_{14} and R_{15} , independently, is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; or R_{12} and R_{13} form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue e.g. a piperazinyl, or a salt thereof.

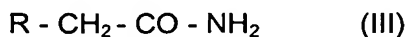
Claim 5. (Currently amended): A compound ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein R_2 and/or R_4 is H; Cl, F; CF_3 ; nitrile; nitro or amino, or a salt thereof.

Claim 6. (Original): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula II



wherein R_a and R_b are as defined in claim 1,

with a compound of formula III



wherein R is as defined in claim 1,

and, where required, converting the resulting compound of formula I obtained in free form to a salt form or vice versa, as appropriate.

Claim 7. (Currently amended): A compound of formula I according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form for use as a pharmaceutical.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier therefor.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): A compound of formula I according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment or prevention of disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC or GSK-3 β .

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A method for preventing or treating disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC or GSK-3 β in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.